

## Message Text

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ACTION AID-05

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 IO-13 ISO-00 DHA-02 ABF-01 OMB-01  
TRSE-00 HEW-04 SCA-01 SCS-03 ORM-02 L-03 H-01  
CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 SP-02 DODE-00 PA-01  
USIA-06 PRS-01 SS-15 /079 W  
-----098307 111942Z /56

P R 111535Z AUG 77  
FM USMISSION GENEVA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0215  
INFO AMEMBASSY NAIROBI  
USMISSION USUN NY

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 1 OF 2 GENEVA 6856

JOINT STATE/AID MESSAGE

PLEASE PASS TO AID

AFR/SA-FOR QUIMBY, ANDERSON  
D/HA-FOR SIEVERTS, LOWMAN, MATSON  
AF/I-FOR MERCURIO

FROM CLARK

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:

SUBJ: AFRICA REFUGEE ASSESSMENT - ICRC

REF: A. STATE 172785 AND SUBSEQUENT; B. GENEVA 4480; C. GENEVA  
5079

1. SUMMARY: DURING TWO DAYS EXTREMELY HELPFUL MEETINGS WITH  
SENIOR OFFICIALS UNHCR AND ICRC, PLUS CONSULTATION US MISSION,  
I WAS PROVIDED WEALTH OF VALUABLE BACKGROUND INFORMATION AND  
STATISTICAL UPDATE ON AFRICAN REFUGEE SITUATION. ALSO GLEANED  
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NUMEROUS PROJECT SUGGESTIONS RE AID ROLE IN REFUGEE RELIEF.  
BASIS FOREGOING, BELIEVE I CAN PROVIDE SOME COMMENTS AND/OR  
RECOMMENDATIONS ON SEVERAL SPECIFIC MATTERS WHICH I WAS ASKED  
TO EXPLORE. END SUMMARY.

2. ICRC: REVIEW OF ICRC APPEAL FOR \$2.5 MILLION CONTRIBUTION  
TO HUMANITARIAN RELIEF AND ASSISTANCE PROGRAM IN SOUTHERN

AFRICA WITH ICRC DIRECTOR OPERATIONS JEAN-PIERRE HOCKE AND  
DELEGATE GENERAL FOR AFRICA FRANK SCHMIDT CONVINCED ME THAT  
RED CROSS CAN PLAY IMPORTANT AND UNIQUE ROLE IN EFFORTS TO  
COPE WITH CURRENT CRITICAL NEEDS AND TO PREPARE FOR FUTURE  
CONTINGENCIES. MOST SIGNIFICANT ARE FOLLOWING POINTS:

A. FOR NOBEL PRIZE CERTIFICATES HANGING IN ICRC HEADQUARTERS  
ATTEST TO MORE THAN HALF-CENTURY EXPERIENCE AND WORLD-WIDE  
REPUTATION FOR INTEGRITY, IMPARTIALITY, AND EFFECTIVENESS IN  
RELIEF HUMAN SUFFERING. PROTECTION AND RELIEF WORK CONCENTRATE  
ON CHILDREN, WOMEN, PRISONERS, WOUNDED AND SICK.

B. ICRC IS AN OPERATING AGENCY DEALING DIRECTLY WITH VICTIMS  
OF MISFORTUNE, WHILE UNHCR COORDINATES AND CHANNELS FUNDS  
THROUGH HOST GOVERNMENTS, WITH CONTRIBUTIONS BECOMING AT  
LEAST IN TRANSIT PROPERTY THESE GOVERNMENTS. ICRC CONTENDS  
THAT DONORS OFTEN EXPRESS GREATER CONFIDENCE IN RED CROSS  
ABILITY ACHIEVE DIRECT AND IMMEDIATE RESULTS.

C. BEING APOLITICAL AND NEUTRAL, RED CROSS CAN WORK IN  
PLACES WHERE MANY OTHER AGENCIES CANNOT, FOR EXAMPLE IN  
ANGOLA, RHODESIA AND NAMIBIA. ENTRY OFTEN ASSURED BY VIRTUE  
FACT ICRC WORKS THROUGH LOCAL NATIONAL RED CROSS SOCIETIES,  
BEING THEREFORE BOTH INTERNATIONAL AND INDIGENOUS. REGARDLESS  
POLITICAL COMPLEXION OF CERTAIN REGIMES, CONSIDERABLE NUMBERS  
INNOCENT PERSONS IN AREAS PRESENTLY DENIED TO ALMOST EVERYONE  
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ELSE OTHER THAN RED CROSS ARE SUFFERING NOW AND GREATER  
NUMBERS MAY NEED HELP IN UNCERTAIN FUTURE FROM AN ORGANIZATION  
SPECIALLY EQUIPPED TO ANTICIPATE AND HANDLE EMERGENCIES AND  
UNUSUAL SITUATIONS. IN CASE NEWLY INDEPENDENT COUNTRIES SUCH  
AS MOZAMBIQUE, ICRC ESTABLISHING NEW NATIONAL SOCIETY WHICH  
EXPECTED TO PLAY UNIQUE NON-PARTISAN ROLE AMONG REFUGEES  
AND OTHER GROUPS.

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P R 111535Z AUG 77

FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0216

INFO AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

USMISSION USUN NY

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 2 OF 2 GENEVA 6856

JOINT STATE/AID MESSAGE

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AF/I-FOR MERCURIO

FROM CLARK

D. BECAUSE OF ITS CHARTER AND MANDATE, RED CROSS QUALIFIED DO THINGS OTHERS CANNOT. EXAMPLES INCLUDE VIGOROUS EFFORTS PERSUADE BOTH SIDES OR VARIOUS FACTIONS IN SEVERAL GUERRILLA/ COMBAT AREAS TO ABIDE BY HUMANE PROVISIONS OF GENEVA CONVENTION. WORK WITH POLITICAL DETAINEES AND PRISONERS ALSO POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT WHEN AND IF THEY ARE FREED FROM REPRESSIVE REGIMES.

E. WHILE RED CROSS CONCENTRATES ON SHORT TERM EMERGENCY SUCCOR AND RELIEF ACTIVITIES, IT IS WORKING TO ESTABLISH PRESENCE AND REPUTATION NOW IN COUNTRIES OR AREAS WHERE NEEDS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AND CIRCUMSTANCES MAY CHANGE SO DRAMATICALLY AND QUICKLY THAT THERE WILL NOT BE TIME FOR OTHER ORGANIZATIONS TO START FROM SCRATCH. THIS COULD INVOLVE DRASTICALLY INCREASED INFLUX OF REFUGEES, SAY FROM RHODESIA OR SOUTH AFRICA, OR CHANGE OF GOVERNMENTS TO MAJORITY RULE.

3. ICRC-UNHCR OVERLAP. I DISCUSSED QUESTION OF POTENTIAL OVERLAP AND DUPLICATION WITH BOTH ORGANIZATIONS. EACH REALIZE POTENTIAL EXISTS, CITING MINOR EXAMPLES AND HYPOTHETICAL SITUATIONS. UNHCR PARTICULARLY ANXIOUS THAT ICRC ADHERE TO TRADITIONAL ROLES AND ACTIVITIES. HOWEVER, THERE HAVE BEEN ENCOURAGING TOP LEVEL MEETINGS ENDEAVORING TO BLOCK OUT GROUND RULES, AND BOTH SIDES EXPRESS VIEW THAT PROBLEM BEING SORTED OUT AT OPERATING LEVELS. RECOGNITION AND FRANK DISCUSSION

OF POLICIES, PROJECTS AND PROBLEMS WOULD APPEAR BEST ASSURANCE THAT PROGRAMS CAN BE SUPPLEMENTARY AND COMPLEMENTARY.

4. ICRC FUNDING. OFFICIALS INDICATED RESPONSE TO APPEAL SLOW IN COMING WITH LESS THAN 10 PERCENT PLEDGED SO FAR.

5. RECOMMENDATION: ALTHOUGH NOT YET HAVING TESTED CONTENTIONS OF ICRC OFFICIALS THROUGH FIELD RECONNAISSANCE, I BELIEVE FROM ALL I'VE HEARD PAST TWO DAYS THAT US SHOULD MAKE MAJOR CONTRIBUTION TO FUND APPEALS. PROJECTS RELATE TO MANY AID OBJECTIVES, OUTSTANDING AMONG WHICH ARE MEDICAL ASSISTANCE, CHILD CARE AND COMMODITY TRANSPORT. ICRC PROVIDES AN EXPERIENCED, RESPECTED INTERNATIONAL CHANNEL, WHICH IN MANY INSTANCES IDEALLY SUITED TO AID'S DESIRED SUPPORTIVE ROLE. I THEREFORE RECOMMEND THAT AID PLEDGE AT LEAST \$1 MILLION, AND POSSIBLY AS MUCH AS \$1.25 MILLION TO THE ICRC SOUTHERN AFRICAN PROGRAM.

6. COMMENTS ON UNHCR, REFUGEE STATISTICS, PER CAPITA MAINTENANCE COSTS AND OTHER MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS FOLLOW SEPTEL.  
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VANDEN HEUVEL

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## Message Attributes

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